Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BBAK, NL, FR

SUBJECT: DASSAULT REPRESENTATIVE GOES ON TRIAL FOR ATTEMPTED BRIBERY

- 1. OVERSHADOWED BY LOCKHEED/BERNHARD AFFAIR, TRIAL OF DASSAULT REPRESENTATIVE BOTTERMAN FOR THE ATTEMPTED BRIBERY OF TWO DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS OPENED FEB 10 IN AMSTERDAM. TESTIMONY TO DATE INCLUDES (1) CLAIM BY CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LOWER HOUSE, PIET DANKERT (LABOR), THAT BOTTERMAN OFFERED HIM 1.5-MILLION GUILDERS ON ONE OCCASION AND A PIECE OF LAND IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE ON ANOTHER AND (2) CLAIM BY LIBERAL PARTY'S KEJA THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED 30,000 GUILDERS. BOTH OFFERS WERE FOR USE OF PARLIAMENTARY INFLUENCE IN SELECTION OF AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE STARFIGHTERS. BOTTERMAN DENIES CHARGES.
- 2. IT IS NOT AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE IN NETHERLANDS FOR DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO APPEAR IN COURT IN BRIBERY CASES, AND, ON ANY OTHER OCCASION, STORY WOULD BE MAIN TOPIC OF LOCAL NEWS. AT TIME ALLEGATIONS FIRST SURFACED, DUTCH AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS GAVE STORY SIGNIFICANT PLAY. BECAUSE STORIES ABOUT PRINCE BERNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARDT ARE DOMINATING NEWSPAPERS THESE DAYS. DASSAULT AFFAIR HAS

BEEN RELEGATED TO CENTER PAGES OF MOST PAPERS.

3. DANKERT, A RECOGNIZED EXPERT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE QUESTIONS AND A MAN WHO OFTEN HAS BEEN MENTIONED FOR INCLUSION IN A FUTURE CABINET, HAS NOT FARED TOO WELL UNDER QUESTIONING TO DATE. SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN "SHOCKED, OFFENDED AND INDIGNANT" AT BOTTERMAN'S CONTINUAL SUGGESTIONS OF BRIBERY, DANKERT RATHER LAMELY TOLD JUDGE THAT HE HESITATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE CONTACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER HOUSE BECAUSE HE DID NOT IMMEDIATELY REALIZE SERIOUSNESS OF BRIBERY ATTEMPTS.

4. COURT RECONVENES FEB 12. GOULD

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Message Attributes

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